

What is Claimed is:

1. A system for controlling access to or distribution of software and/or data among a plurality of client nodes, the system comprising:
means for storing software and/or data that is to be made available to pre-determined client nodes, and a list of identifiers, each of which uniquely identifies one of the pre-determined nodes; and
a client application at each client node that is configured to identify whether the unique identifier for that node is included on the list and allow access to the software and/or data only if it is.
2. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the means for storing the software and/or data and unique client identifiers is portable.
3. A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the means for storing the software and/or data and unique client identifiers comprises a CD.
4. A system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the means for storing the software and/or data and unique client identifiers comprises a floppy disc.
5. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the client nodes are part of a communications network.
6. A system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the means for storing is provided in a shared information storage area that can be remotely accessed by at least some or all of the client nodes.
7. A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the client application is operable to generate a unique identifier for its host node and compare this with the unique identifiers on

the authorized list, thereby to identify whether the unique identifier for that node is on the list.

8. A system as claimed in claim 7, wherein the client application uses node specific data to generate the unique identifier.

9. A method for controlling access to or distribution of software and/or data among a plurality of client nodes, the method comprising:

storing in association with the software and/or data, a list of unique identifiers, each of which uniquely identifies one of the pre-determined nodes;

identifying whether a unique identifier for a particular node is included on the list; and

loading or installing or using the software and/or data at that particular node only if its unique identifier is on the list.

10. A computer program, preferably on a data carrier or computer readable medium, the computer program having code or instructions for:

identifying a unique identifier associated with its host terminal;

reading a list of unique identifiers associated with software and/or data, each unique identifier being uniquely associated with one of a plurality of client nodes or terminals; and

allowing access to the software and/or data only if the unique identifier for the host node or terminal is on the list of unique identifiers.

11. A computer program as claimed in claim 10, further having code or instructions for generating a unique identifier for its host node and comparing this with the unique identifiers on the authorized list, thereby to identify whether the unique identifier for that node is on the list.

12. A computer program as claimed in claim 11, wherein node specific data is used to generate the unique identifier.

13. A client node or terminal comprising:
means for reading a list of unique identifiers associated with software and/or data, each unique identifier being uniquely associated with one of a plurality of client nodes or terminals; and

means for loading or installing or using the software and/or data only if its own unique identifier is on the list of unique identifiers.

14. A client node or terminal as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:
means for generating a unique identifier for its host node and comparing this with the unique identifiers on the authorized list, thereby to identify whether the unique identifier for that node is on the list.

15. A client node or terminal as claimed in claim 14, wherein node specific data is used to generate the unique identifier.

16. A self-service terminal or automated teller machine comprising:
means for reading a list of unique identifiers associated with software and/or data, each unique identifier being uniquely associated with one of a plurality of self-service terminals or automated teller machines; and

means for loading or installing or using the software and/or data only if its own unique identifier is on the list of unique identifiers.

17. A self-service terminal or automated teller machine as claimed in claim 16, further comprising:

means for generating a unique identifier for its host node and comparing this with the unique identifiers on the authorized list, thereby to identify whether the unique identifier for that node is on the list.

18. A self-service terminal or automated teller machine as claimed in claim 17, wherein node specific data is used to generate the unique identifier.